

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1. In Figure 1, the shading has been deleted and the lines, numbers and letters made sharper.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the amendments above and the following comments.

The claims and drawings have been revised extensively. Applicants do not believe that any of the amendments introduce new matter. In the claims, a new main claim 17 is presented. New claim 17 is a combination of previous claims 1 and 2. New claim 17 includes the additional requirement of a neck, which is supported by Figure 1, and the accompanying text. Again, Applicants do not believe that any of the amendments introduce new matter.

The specification was objected to under 37 CFR § 1.77(c) for lacking section headings. In response, Applicants point out that no objection under 37 CFR § 1.77(c) is proper inasmuch as this section does not mandate, but, rather, merely suggests section headings. Thus, this section uses the terminology "should," which means "can," but not "must." MPEP § 608.01(a) is consistent with this interpretation, outlining the same arrangement as "a preferred layout." Since the application contains a drawing, Applicants believe the only heading actually required is a Brief Description of the Drawings, which the application already contains. Consequently, Applicants believe this objection is in error, and, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw it.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR § 1.84 as being informal. In response, Applicants submit a new proposed corrected Figure 1. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner review and approve proposed corrected Figure 1.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, Applicants have amended the claims in a manner which Applicants believe clearly overcomes each of the Examiner's concerns. Regarding the Examiner's first point, new claim 17 provides that the "fluorescent material layer comprises a fluorescent material obtainable by polymerizing a polymerizable mixture comprising" the recited components. Regarding the Examiner's second point, claims 3 and 4 now say "further comprising" in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Finally, regarding the Examiner's third point, there is, in fact, antecedent basis for "the fillers" in the next-to-last line of claim 10.

Claims 1 and 12-16 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pyungton, US 2,895,050.

Claims 1 and 12-16 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Panzera et al. ("Panzera"), US 5,653,791.

Claims 1 and 12-16 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Deguchi et al. ("Deguchi"), US 6,063,830.

In response to all *three* anticipation rejections, Applicants point out that new main claim 17 incorporates the limitations of previous claim 2, which was not subject to this rejection. Claims 12, 14 and 16 have been canceled. However, the other rejected claims, viz., claims 13 and 15, depend on claim 17, and, therefore, also incorporate the limitations of previous claim 2. Consequently, none of these claims are anticipated by the cited prior art.

Claims 2-11 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Deguchi. In response, Applicants point out that the rejected claims all depend on new main claim 17, which requires, in accordance with Figure 1, now a four-layer structure, and, again, a fluorescent material layer provided between the enamel layer and the dentin layer. Deguchi does not teach or

suggest such a 4-layer structure, or a fluorescent material layer provided between the enamel layer and the dentin layer. Consequently, Deguichi is inadequate, as a matter of law, to have rendered the subject matter of the instant claims *prima facie* obvious to persons skilled in the art.

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a bona fide response to all outstanding objections and rejections.

Applicants also believe that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (212) 808-0700 so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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ANNOTATED SHEET

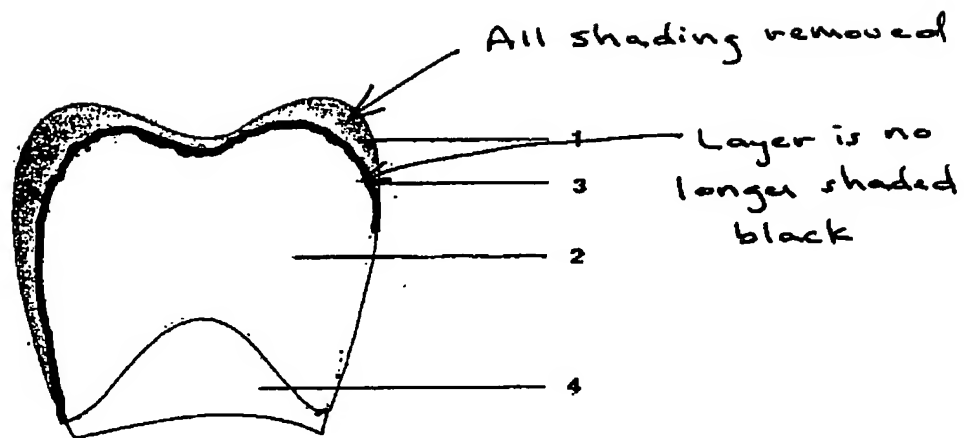


Fig. 1

Lines and numbers
made sharper

USPN 10/692,053